GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2135
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
ATTACHMENT OF NRI WITH SOCIO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

The steps being taken by the Government to keep the Non-Resident Indians and the persons of Indian origin residing in foreign countries attached to their motherland on cultural, economic and emotional grounds?

Answer

MINSTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI JASWANT SINGH)
The Government through its Missions and Posts abroad maintains regular and continuous contacts with the Indian community organisations in various countries, covering all matters of common interest. This includes the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) as well as Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs).Indian newspapers, magazines and books on India are made available through libraries in our Missions. Audio-visual material such as films, videotapes, etc. on various aspects of India`s culture, history, religion, and socio-economic development are also available. The Indian Missions and Posts work actively with the Indian community organisations in holding various cultural events, including during visits of eminent artists from India. Indian Cultural Centres have been set up in several countries, which enables the Indian community to benefit from their programmes to strengthen awareness and knowledge of India`s cultural heritage.

2. Government has provided special facilities to NRIs/PIOs to invest in and participate in the economic development of India.These include special tax free bank deposit schemes, liberal facilities for Foreign Direct Investment, Portfolio Investment in Securities and Deposits, and Investment in Real Estate.A PIO Card is now available to enable PIOs to move more freely into India and entitles them to the same facilities as NRIs in economic, financial and educational fields.

3. Government also encourages Indian community organisations to come forward at time of national crisis, disasters, etc. to show their support for India. Indian Missions and Posts are in contact with Indian community organisations for this purpose.